



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ALERT – Monday, January 8, 2024

Fargo Public School District #1

HIGH SCHOOLERS TO PUT ENGINEERING SKILLS TO THE TEST AT 'SWEEP AWAY' ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Local high school roboticists will be “Swept Away” in the spirit of competition and passion for robots on Tuesday.

WHAT: ‘Swept Away’ robotics competition
WHEN: **Tuesday, January 9** from 9:30 a.m. to noon
WHERE: Gym, South High School, 1840 15th Avenue South, Fargo
CONTACT: **Dr. Denise Jonas**, Career and Technical Education Director, djonas@west-fargo.k12.nd.us or 701.4999.1008 for more information.

Members of 26 teams from South High School, North High School, Davies High School and West Fargo High School have been working hard on designing robots and practicing piloting them to try to take home the top prize at the Vex: Swept Away robotics competition on Tuesday.

The Swept Away game is played on an 8-foot by 8-foot field divided in half by a 12-inch high wall with two tall trapezoidal goals in the middle and two four-inch tall slots in the middle. On each side of the field are 12 foam soccer balls and six foam footballs.

The goal of the game is to use a robot to move as many of the balls as possible onto their competitors’ side of the field either by throwing it over the wall, sliding it through the slots, or scoring it in the other team’s goal. Points are awarded for each ball moved to their side of the field, with footballs being worth three points, soccer balls worth one, and balls in the goal worth three. If at any point in the game, every ball is on one side of the field, the match immediately ends and the team with all the balls on their side has been “swept away.”

The high school engineers have designed and built robots to accomplish the task of moving the balls as quickly as possible. The game will test the efficacy and reliability of their designs and their skills at piloting them.

Volunteers from North Dakota State University, North Dakota State College of Science, University of North Dakota, and John Deere will be helping facilitate the event.

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